



# Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission

January 12, 2012 – Regular Meeting – 1:00 PM

Big Four Depot

200 N 2<sup>nd</sup> Street      Lafayette IN 47904

President - John Gettinger    Vice-President – Dave Hacker    Secretary - Dale Brier

## Meeting minutes

### **Voting Members Present:**

Allen County - Ron Zartman  
Carroll County - George Mears  
Cass County- Arin Shaver  
Fountain County - Robert Shepherd  
Gibson County - William Knowles  
Huntington County - Dave Hacker  
Miami County - Kenneth Einselen  
Parke County - Penny Cox  
Posey County - Ralph Weinzapfel  
Sullivan County - John Gettinger  
Tippecanoe County - Lucky Neiburger  
Vigo County - Kara Kish  
Wabash County - Michael Beauchamp  
Warren County - Louise Jewell  
Wells County - Scott Elzey  
DNR - Dale Brier (alt)

### **Non-Voting Members Present:**

INDOT - Alan Plunkett

### **DNR Staff Present:**

Leah Kopp - DNR Nature Preserves

### **Guests:**

Phil Cox - Parke County alternate  
Ron James - Allen County alternate  
Don Jewell  
Stan Lambert - WREC  
Sara Peel - WREC  
Keith Poole -Wabash County alternate  
Keith Ruble - Vigo County alternate  
Rae Schnapp - Banks of the Wabash  
Tom VanSickle - Carroll County alternate

### **Voting Members Absent:**

Adams County - Ryan Noblitt  
Knox County - Troy Hinkle

### **Counties not participating**

Jay County  
Vermillion County

*Prior to the meeting, a luncheon was held to honor Lucky Neiburger as the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission Citizen of the year for 2011. Many well-wishers were on hand to present Lucky with various recognitions for all of his work and dedication to the Wabash. Louise and Don Jewell were in charge of the luncheon and did a great job and the food was wonderful.*

### **Call to Order, Introductions, Announce proxies, Open Agenda**

Because of the award presentation, the meeting was delayed. John Gettinger called the meeting to order at 1:50 PM and asked for proxies, there were none. Dale then asked that the representative from INDOT be moved up on the agenda, John agreed and adjusted the meeting agenda.

### **INDOT**

Alan Plunkett spoke on the signage on State Roads. He said there should be one focal person on the Commission who would speak for the entire group. This person would then be in charge of the interactions between INDOT and the Commission. There are many guidelines, and criteria

for putting up signs. Dale brought up the fact the WRHCC covers many districts and is often given different answers. Alan will try to get all of the guidelines put together for the Commission so that they have a copy of what is needed in order to follow the proper procedure for sign placement. Unauthorized signs will always be removed. Dale then mentioned that many of the signs the Commission would be looking at putting up are signs that would be visible from the river. All agencies have to follow the state guidelines, this includes meeting sign criteria, including subject matter and dimensions. All signs must be approved first, and a formal request can be made to INDOT for the proposed placement of the signs. Dale then suggested the Commission make a formal request to INDOT for all signs and placement of them. Kara asked if a motion would be required to put together a proposal that would include dimensions, subject matter and proposed locations to be submitted to INDOT, John agreed with a second from George. The motion carried. Ken will be the chairperson of the committee and Dave will work with him to form the new committee. Dale agreed to be the INDOT WRHCC liaison if needed.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Penny Cox made a motion to approve the November 9 minutes with a second from Ralph W. Ron Zartman said that a correction was needed; river road will start around the historic portage area not in the city of Portage. The motion carried with corrections.

### **President's Report**

No report.

### **Finance Report**

Dale B. distributed the finance report (see attached). As of January 9, 2012, there is a balance of \$352,377.07 in the Corridor fund. So far in this fiscal year the Commission has spent \$12,708.13. John then mentioned the budget report from the last meeting, and the lack of a Treasurer. Kara then asked whom the salaries and wages were paid to. Dale responded it was state employee salary and gave her and other new members an overview of the system. He went on to say the travel reimbursement was another expense listed. All new members need to see Dale after the meeting to get the paperwork set up for their travel reimbursement.

### **Budget**

Dale went over the proposed budget. Estimated operating expenses are \$30,000, sponsorships are estimated at \$6,000. Ron moved to spend up to \$3,000 for the retreat for the next meeting, Dave seconded. Kara then asked what the \$3,000 would be used for. Ron then explained that a retreat is held every two years when new Commission members are appointed, everyone will get a little welcome packet and the vision and mission of the Commission is then discussed. The expenses are almost entirely for travel, the members spend the night at the Turkey Run Inn. Motion carried.

Ron J. thought that it would be appropriate to compensate Louise for the meal that she had prepared prior to the meeting. Bob Shepherd made the motion to get up to \$250 from the BOW funds with a second from George, motion carried.

### **Grants**

Dale announced that there was not much to report yet, the program manual is being written up now he reported. One minor change has been made and that is a point will be added in the criteria if your project occurs within the Healthy Rivers Initiative (HRI) area on the Wabash River. The Governor's office is putting emphasis on the HRI. There was a lot discussion, with

some not wanting to focus money on a Governor's initiative or have bonus points to geographic areas. Dale will have someone with HRI give a presentation at the spring retreat so members have more information about the program. The topic was tabled until the March meeting.

### **Legislative**

Nothing to report.

### **Water Trail Committee Report**

Ron James was disappointed that he has not received any of the forms back that he requested earlier. Mike B. stated that he had indeed turned his in and Ron informed him that the one he had turned in was for last year. He insisted that this information is very valuable to the Grant round. Ron said he would send them all out again and to please fill them out and return them to him as soon as possible.

### **Banks of the Wabash**

Dr. Rae Schnapp, president of the Banks of the Wabash (BOW), mentioned that they have many signs out with decals showing the new web address. If anyone needs decals for old, existing signs, please let her know.

BOW has \$14,000 earmarked for WRHCC projects. BOW has authorized a blanket release of funds to the WRHCC after the Commission takes an official vote on how to spend it. Ken E. was selected to be the official liaison between BOW and WHRCC. He will make sure that the BOW gets a copy of the minutes where the commission authorized spending. It was suggested that WRHCC join the BOW. Lucky wanted to make a motion that each individual be named, and Dale suggested the WRHCC have group membership. He also mentioned that the State would require an invoice. A motion was then made by Ralph to join as a corporate member for \$500 with a second from George, motion carried. Dale will process the membership payment.

### **War of 1812 Bicentennial – 2012 Events**

Ken had one short announcement. Events are listed on [www.thefirstvolley.com](http://www.thefirstvolley.com)

### **Old Business**

#### **River Currents**

Please get your articles in to Susan no later than February 24. Once the Grant manual is done, the Commission can start promoting it.

### **Indiana Bicentennial in 2016**

Ron James is still trying to inspire people to get started! The Bicentennial was mentioned in the Governor's State of the State address. A representative from the Commission should be on the committee. That person shall be appointed at the retreat at Turkey Run.

### **River Road and Heritage Community Sign Programs – Carroll County**

George reported they have a couple of signs up in their county. They are still not clear on what can and cannot be done according to INDOT.

### **Bridges and Railing**

Keith reported that he was waiting on a call from Joe Novak. He had asked him to find out what it will take to get bridge construction standards to change to allow viewing of the river. Getting in touch with INDOT about projects before they are planned is the only hope for success. Keith went on to say Joe thinks it may take years.

## **Meeting Cancellation Procedures**

No report.

## **2012 Commissioner Appointments**

John welcomed the new members. There are 17 of 19 counties on the Commission as of today. Vermillion and Jay counties have not made any appointments. Dale also welcomed all new members. Louise made the comment that she heard the letter that Dale had sent to all of the counties asking for involvement and showing commission attendance had really worked. Dale let everyone know that Chase Ellis has resigned from Knox County as he and his family have moved out West. Troy Hinkle will take his place.

## **New Business:**

### **Officer Appointments**

On behalf of the nominating committee, Keith Ruble nominated John Gettinger for President of the Commission, and Dave Hacker as Vice President. There were no other nominations or discussion, so a motion was then made by Ken to close the nominations with a second from Tom V. motion carried. Ralph W. made the motion to elect them unopposed, with a second from Ken and the motion carried. A special thank you went out to Lucky for serving as Vice President for many years. The President can appoint the treasurer.

## **March Retreat**

The retreat will be held on March 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> at Turkey Run State Park at the Inn. Items that could be on the agenda for the retreat included – New member information, Staff from DNR coming to talk about the grant program, and the Healthy Rivers Initiative (HRI). The Commission members historically meet at dinnertime on Tuesday and meet for a few hours. On the 14<sup>th</sup>, meetings will start in the morning with the regular meeting scheduled for the afternoon. Members are invited to stay at the Inn; they will be reimbursed for their travel, lodging and be given a food per diem. Spouses and family are welcome, but they will have to pay for their own meals. This is a retreat for the Commission; an agenda will need to be put together by a committee. This will be a good way for the new members to be introduced to the grant program and all of the information that goes with it. Bob Bronson will be on hand to deliver all of that information and answer questions. New member information will be given on Tuesday evening and the grant round information will be delivered on Wednesday morning. Everyone who plans to attend will need to make their own reservations, with reimbursement coming after travel vouchers are completed.

## **Announcements**

Keith and Kara announced that Terre Haute would be sponsoring Year of River 2013.

Mike B. announced that the Wabash River Defenders would hold a river clean up on July 29. It would be nice if it could be a coordinated state project with cleanups throughout 19 counties. A state wide coordinated event will be discussed at the March meeting.

The Wabash River fest will be held July 14<sup>th</sup>, assistance is needed to help with the kids areas. The Wabash River Enhancement Corp. would like a \$1000.00 sponsorship. Lucky then made the motion to sponsor the event with a second from Ken. Motion carried. Sara Peel and Dale will work out the invoice and payment.

There is \$6,000 budgeted for different sponsorships, so far \$500 has been allotted for Fox Island, \$500 for the Sullivan County school event, \$1000.00 for River Fest and \$500 might be needed for De-trash the Wabash on April 7.

**Final Comments**

Sara made the comment that the Web page has not been updated since 2009. Dale acknowledged this and said responsibility fell to him after the loss of the Executive Director. The DNR Commutations Dept does not work on it; the WRHCC is outside of DNR. The Grants on the DNR website is up to date, but the Commission information has been ignored. Dale is not trained in website maintenance, it would be very time consuming for him to do it, but it might be possible. Ken wanted to know what the options were of having the website updated, he wondered if the Commission could pay someone to have it done. Dale said he would look into reimbursing the DNR Communications staff for working on it. Because the WRHCC is a state commission, having an outside vendor do it is very difficult and expensive.

**Motion to Adjourn**

Keith made the motion with a second from Penny, motion carried at approximately 4 PM.

The next meeting will be March 14, at Turkey Run State Park.

FY 2012      48686 Wabash River Heritage Corridor

Revenue                      **As of January 09, 2012**

431401 AD-Oil and Gas royalty along	\$92,545.92
<b>Revenue Total</b>	<b>\$92,545.92</b>

Expense

510101 Payroll Salaries & Wages	\$6,716.68
515000 fringe	\$2,448.63
541002 Mot Veh Ex - Gasoline	\$138.79
547026 SpOp-Awards & Gifts	\$135.00
591024 NonRealEstRnt-Vehicle Rentals	\$64.78
595110 InState Travel - Mileage	\$2,774.64
595120 InState Travel - Per Diem&Meal	\$52.00
595130 InState Travel - Lodging	\$204.60
595170 InState Travel - Parking&Tolls	\$14.00
659410 Postage	\$159.01

<b>Expense Total</b>	<b>\$12,708.13</b>
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Beginning Balance, July 1, 2011	\$272,539.28
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Total revenue as of August 31, 2011	\$92,545.92
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Total expenses as of August 31, 2011	\$12,708.13
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<b>Balance as of January 09, 2012</b>	<b>\$352,377.07</b>
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